ISO/IEC JTC1/SC22
N 1494

OCTOBER 1993

TITLE: Minutes of the Sixth Plenary of SC22,
                    Paris France, 1993-09-20/24

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ACTION: For information to SC22 Member Bodies.

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING:

Mr. Follett, chairman of JTC1/SC22, officially opened the Sixth Plenary meeting at 10:11 September 20, 1993 by welcoming delegates in attendance.

Mr. Claude Bourstin of AFNOR outlined the arrangements for the meeting and then invited delegates and their spouses to a social event to be held in their honour, on September 22, at Fouquets. He then wished SC22 a successful meeting.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

The chairman presented his excuses for his early departure from the Fifth Plenary in Finland. (Mr. Follett was hospitalized and had minor surgery a few days later.) Mr. Follett went on to explain that although he would retire from IBM in Oct, 1993, he had managed to obtain support to allow him to carry out his responsibilities until the end of his term of office (1995).

3. ROLL CALL:

The list of delegates in attendance at the Sixth Plenary meeting of SC22 is contained in document SC22 N1493.

4. APPOINTMENT OF DRAFTING COMMITTEE:

The following delegates were appointed to the drafting committee:

    Mr. H. Hall - USA
    Mr. B. Meek - UK
    Mr. I. Korn - Denmark (chairman)
    Mr. G. Warren - Canada
    Mr. F. Genuys - France

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

The agenda for the meeting, contained in SC22 N1425, was adopted with the addition of the relevant document numbers. At this point, during a discussion of potential Ad Hoc groups, the following issues were identified as requiring further consideration:
    1. Character Sets
    2. Cross-language Issues
    3. Application Program Interface (API)
    4. Internationalization
    5. Proliferation of language standards
    6. ISO Guide 25 - Conformity Assessment.

6. REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT:

6.1 Mr. Côté, Secretariat of SC22, referred delegates to the SC22 Project Information document (N1422) and the Personnel part of the Secretariat's report (N1424) and asked that all convenors provide updating information

by the end of the week.

He then referred delegates to document N1423, containing the notification of transfer of Secretariat to Unisys Canada (Mr. Johnstone), and reported that Unisys had backed out of their committment. He indicated that, until further notice from the Standards Council of Canada, all correspondence should be forwarded to Mr. Johnstone of Unisys, as indicated in N1423. He stressed that the ultimate responsibility for the Secretariat was with the Standrd Council of Canada. It was later reported by Mr. Côté that the position of the Standards Council of Canada was that they will be relinquishing the Secretariat of SC22 (if support can be found in Canada, they will withdraw the notice of relinquishment).

In closing, Mr. Côté noted that SC22 Member Bodies would be notified, shortly, of the exact arrangements, until the Secretariat's responsibilities are assumed by another country.

6.2 The Resolutions prepared at the Fifth Plenary of SC22, contained indocument N1242, were reviewed and it was noted that there were no outsdanding items from the Fifth Plenary of SC22.

7. ACTIVITY REPORTS:

7.1 Report from the chairman

Mr. Follett referred delegates to his report to JTC1, contained in N1352. He then briefly reported on his attendance at the SWG on Procedures.

7.2 National Reports

The following activity reports were presented:

Austria	- N1480
Canada	- N1475
Denmark	- Verbal report
Finland	- N1488
France	- N1470
Germany	- N1474
Japan	- N1481
Netherlands	- N1479
New Zealand	- Verbal report
Switzerland	- Represented by Austria but no report was presented
UK	- N1428
USA	- N1448.

7.3 Liaison report - External to JTC1

No external liaison organization was represented at the meeting. Mr. Korn (Denmark) provided the following information regarding CCE activities.
The Commission of the European Communities is testing conformance to standards for most programming languages and also POSIX 9945-1. The are also just beginning to test against POSIX 9945-2.
He also reported that CCE was starting to apply IT standards (CEN standards when they exist and ISO standards (on a voluntary basis)) in their procurement. He also suggested that the Vienna Agreement might benefit (ie. funding) ISO if the agreement was recognized by JTC1.

7.4 Report of liaison officers

7.4.1 Liaison officer to SC2

Mr. J. Van Wingen presented his liaison report which is contained in document N1482.

7.4.2 Liaison officer to SC7

Mr. Cote reported that the SC7 project on Software Engineering Data description had just been initiated and that, in future months, there may be some information of interest to SC22.

7.4.3 - 7.4.5

As there is currently no liaison representatives to SC15, SC18 and SC21, these items were not discussed. Mr. Walker (UK) briefly mentionned that SC21 had prepared a document on Conformance Testing which might be of interest to SC22.

7.4.6 Liaison officer to SC21/WG3

Mr. Korn reported that the SQL2 standard had been published and that it fully supported internationalization (ISO 8859, 10646). Work has now started on SQL3.

7.5 Report from Ad Hoc Groups

7.5.1 Report from Ad Hoc on Character Sets

Dr. Dickey (Canada), chairman of this ad hoc group, referred delegates to his report (N1389) and the minutes of the meeting held in Copenhagen (N1371) and the recommendations made by the ad hoc group (N1372). Dr. Dickey noted that SC2 and SC18 were represented at the meeting.

7.5.2 Report from Ad Hoc on Cross-language Issues

Mr. Rabin (USA) briefly outlined the content of his report which is contained in N1446. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that this report be reviewed by an Ad Hoc group, during this plenary.

8. WORKING GROUP REPORTS

8.1 WG2 - Pascal

The report of activities of this group, contained in N1375, was presented by the Convenor, Mr. Joslin.

8.2 WG3 - APL

The report of activities of this group, contained in N1430, was presented by the Convenor, Dr. Dickey. He noted that there is currently no project editor for project JTC1.22.24.01.

8.3 WG4 - COBOL

The report of activities of this group, contained in N1483, was presented by the Convenor, Ms. Wallace. In presenting her report, the following points were made:
* WG4 had prepared a revised synchronization plan (N1484)
* WG4 want the ISO COBOL standard not to be copyrighted

8.4 WG5 - Fortran

The report of activities of this group, contained in N1427, was presented by the Convenor, Ms. Martin. In presenting her report, the following points were made:

* Some WG5 experts object to the Language-independent arithmetic standard - they prefer the IEEE standard
* Amendment 1 to ISO 1539 on Varying length character string should be numbered ISO 1539-2 and ISO 1539 should be renumbered ISO 1539-1.

8.5 WG8 - Basic

The report of activities of this group, contained in N1412, was presented by the Convenor, Dr. Kurtz.

8.6 WG9 - Ada

The report of activities of this group, contained in N1388, was presented by the Convenor, Dr. Mathis. He noted that document N1451 replaces document N1383 and that N1455 replaces document N1405.

8.7 WG11 - Binding Techniques

The report of activities of this group, contained in N1453, was presented by the Convenor, Mr. Wakker. He reported that a lot of progress had been made during the past year but that membership is still a problem for WG11.

8.8 WG13 - Modula 2

The report of activities of this group, contained in N1478, was presented by the Convenor, Mr. Woodman. In his report, he raised the issue of negative votes on Second CD10514 an asked for guidance on how to proceed. It was noted that WG13 should try to resolve the negative votes but, if resolution of these resulted in technical change to the text, the revised text would have to be approved by the membership of SC22. In any case, a disposition of comments report had to be prepared and circulated to SC22, prior to proceeding to DIS.

8.9 WG14 - C

The report of activities of this group, contained in N1441, was presented by the Convenor, Mr. Plauger. In presenting his report, he raised the following points:
* WG14 is concerned about the resources taken up by its liaison requirements - with WG15, WG21, WG11 and others
* WG14 is concerned about conformance and the convenor indiated that if SC22 is asked for input on this issue, WG14 is interested in providing some.
  In the course of a discussion of the draft amendment for ISO 9989, it was noted that The Netherlands, UK and France had concerns about it. This should be reflected in the current CD ballot.

8.10 WG15 - POSIX

The report of activities of this group, contained in N1401, was presented by the Convenor, Mr. Isaak. During his report, the following points were raised:
* WG15 is requesting the accelerated processing procedure for 9 projects
* WG15 needs guidance on the language-independent specifications issue
* WG15 has identified a new area of work(N1403) and would like input from a wider audience
* WG15 has prepared a NWI proposal for consideration by SC22

8.11 WG16 - Lisp

The report of activities of this group, contained in N1471, was presented by the Convenor, Mr. Queinnec. He noted that the disposition of comments, received during the CD registration ballot, is contained in N1472. It was agreed that the revised version of the Working Draft on ISLisp should be registered as CD. The convenor will provide this document to the SC22 Secretariat.

8.12 WG17 - Prolog

The report of activities of this group, contained in N1414, and a revised version of his report (N1473) were presented by the Convenor, Mr. Scowen.

8.13 WG18 - FIMS

The report of activities of this group, contained in N1436, was presented by the Convenor, Dr. Frantz. He indicated that WG18 was requesting the accelerated processing procedure for projects JTC1.22.27.02, .03, .04 and .05. Following his report, it was noted that the UK had decided to abstain from future participation in this working group. Only two countries (Canada & USA) currently participate in WG18 activities. Mr. Korn (Denmark) indicated that there may be European interest in the near future.

8.14 WG19 - VDM

The report of activities of this group, contained in N1477, was presented by the Convenor, Mr. Andrews.

8.15 WG20 - Internationalization

The report of activities of this group, contained in N1413, was presented by Mr. Simonsen (Denmark) on behalf of the interim Convenor, Mr. Winkler. Following his report, it was noted that some Member Bodies were concerned about the work of WG20 and specifically about the Framework document produced by WG20. There was a brief discussion of the WG20 proposal to subdivide project JTC1.22.30.02 (summary of vote contained in N1378), another proposal contained in N1486, and the NWI proposal contained in N1487. It was agreed tha these should be further discussed in an ad hoc group, during this plenary.

Mr. Simonsen also raised a WG20 liaison requirement with CEN TC304 and with SHARE Europe. After some discussion, it was agreed that liaison could not be officially established with a CEN committee, as per correspondence from ITTF (K. Brannon) to SC2. Concerning the category C liaison with SHARE Europe, Mr. Simonsen was asked to provide the statement of benefit, which is required by SC22 to request authority from JTC1 to establish this type of liaison arrangement.

8.16 WG21 - C++

The report of activities of this group, contained in N1447, was presented by the interim Convenor, Mr. Harbison.

9. Project Editors Report

9.1 PL/1

No report had been received from Dr. Klensin.

10. AD HOC MEETINGS

The following Ad Hoc Groups were established:

1° Proliferation of language standards	- M. Woodman (chair)
2° Character Sets	- Dr. Dickey (chair)
3° Cross-language Issues	- P. Rabin (chair)
4° API	- J. Isaak (chair)
5° Internationalization	- A. Walker (chair)

The Plenary meeting of SC22 adjourned and re-convened at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday 22 Sept/93.

A first pass of the draft SC22 Resolutions was made to permit discussion of contentious ones.

The Plenary meeting adjourned at 10:45 and re-convened at 14:45 Wednesday 22 Sept/93.

The Chairmen of the Ad Hoc Groups briefly reported on the discussion and recommendations prepared by their respective group.

The Plenary meeting adjourned at 17:00 and re-convened at 9:20 a.m. Thursday 23 Sept/93.

The chairs of three of the Ad Hoc Groups (P. Rabin, J. Isaak, G. Warren) reported on the discussions and recommendations prepared by there respective group.

11. Issues for discussion

11.1 WG Meeting Notice and Agenda

The chairman emphasized the requirements, as per the JTC1 Directives, that working group meeting notices had to be distributed at least three months prior to the meeting. The convenor of WG18 indicated that the next meeting of his WG was scheduled for November and requested the authorization to proceed with it - SC22 agreed to this request.

11.2 SC22 Member Bodies response to letter ballots

The Secretariat reported that the JTC1 Secretariat instructed its SC Secretariats to implement the procedures as documented in the Directives regarding the voting dates - ballots should be closed on the closing dates. Mr. Côté also indicated that in the future, he will inform ITTF of Member Bodies who consistently fail to return the ballot form.

11.3 Preparation of Executive Summary in Standards

Mr. Follett reported on the discussion of this issue that took place during the recent SC Chairs Forum, held the day before the last JTC1 Plenary (Berlin - March/93). He added that this issue had been referred to the JTC1 SWG on Procedures. Finally, it was noted that many SC22 WGs are already providing this type of summary, as part of the standard.

11.4 SC22 Liaison Requirements

The Chair of the Drafting Committee noted that a Resolution regarding the Vienna Agreement had been prepared and will require discussion. The HODs from France and Denmark indicated that liaison with CEN committees would not resolve the problem for which the Vienna Agreement was intended.

It was then agreed that a liaison with SC15 was no longer required. Since no one volunteered to act as liaison representative to SC18, it was also agreed that this liaison should also be dropped. Mr. I. Korn (Denmark) agreed to act a the SC22 liaison representative to JTC1/SC21.

11.5 Confirmation of WG Convenors

A Resolution was prepared and this item did not require further discussion.

11.6 Nomination/Appointment of Project Editors

A Resolution was prepared and this item did not require further discussion.

11.7 Status of possible NWI's

This item had been discussed within an Ad Hoc Group and did not require further discussion.

11.8 Accelerated Processing

The chairman briefly described this new procedure. It was noted that, under this procedure, two options were available:
    1° Obtain the SC's authorization to skip the CD registration ballot
        or
    2° Obtain the SC's authorization to combine the CD registration ballot and the actual CD ballot.

11.9 Establishment of WG22 - 'Z' Specification language

The UK proposed that project JTC1.22.45 - Z language be temporarily assigned to WG19. Denmark proposed to modify the Terms of Reference of WG19, to include VDM and Z specifications. As a result of the discussion of this item, a Resolution was prepared.

11.10 Committment of participation on NP ballots

There was a brief discussion on recent JTC1 NWI ballot that failed due to a lack of participation. It was agreed that future SC22 NWI ballot should contain a second question regarding the Member Body's intent to participate in the work. Essentially, the SC22 ballot should be very similar to the current JTC1 ballot.

11.11 JTC1 Policies and procedures for standardization of API's

This issue had been discussed within an Ad Hoc Group and did not require further discussion.

11.12 Joint WG on ISO Guide 25

This issue had been discussed within an Ad Hoc Group and did not require further discussion.

11.13 JTC1 comments on SC22 Internationalization report

This issue had been discussed within an Ad Hoc Group and did not require further discussion.

11.14 Discussion of USA proposal to fast-track ANSI/IEEE std 1003.5

A Resolution had been prepared and therefore this item did not require further discussion.

11.15 Discussion of plan to fast-track PCTE stds

Mr. R. Minot and Mr. G. Sagols of ECMA TC33 gave a presentation of the PCTE standards, which had recently been submitted to JTC1 for fast-track processing. It was also reported that the PCTE standards had also been submitted to the appropriate CEN committee. It was noted that following the close of the fast-track ballot, if required, a joint ECMA/SC22 editing meeting would be called to resolve the comments. At this point, Mr. Côté, as SC7 liaison representative, indicated that SC7 had informed ECMA of their interest in the PCTE Abstract Specification (part 1) standard.

11.16 UK contribution on proliferation of language standards

This issue had been discussed within an Ad Hoc Group and did not require further discussion.

12. SC22 ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

12.1 Mechanization Plan (N1343)

Following a brief discussion of this issue, it was agreed that the Secretariat should prepare a proposal and present it to the Convenors and to SC22 for endorsment.

12.2 Review of Five-Year Meeting Schedule

The HOD from The Netherlands confirmed their invitation to host the Seventh Plenary meeting of JTC1/SC22 in The Hague, September 19/23, 1994. The invitation was accepted by SC22. Future meetings of SC22 were tentatively scheduled as follows:

         1995 - USA
         1996 - UK
         1997 - Canada.

12.3 Standards for periodic review

A Resolution was prepared for the standards due for revision in 1994.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

At this point, Mr. Côté, Secretariat of JTC1/SC22, indicated that he had received further information from the Standards Council of Canada regarding the situation with this committee's Secretariat. He reported that the Standards Council of Canada would relinquish the Secretariat of SC22 and that the JTC1 Secretariat would be notified appropriately. However, Mr. Côté indicated that he did not know who would actually be responsible for the Secretariat in the interim period. Finally, he promised to communicate with SC22 Member Bodies and Convenors, within a week or two, to provide additional information.

14.   APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS AND STATEMENT OF RESULTS

Resolutions 247 to 304 were approved as indicated in document N1496.

15.   ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, the Sixth Plenary meeting of ISO/IEC JTC1/SC22 was adjourned at 13:15 hrs, September 24, 1993.

Respectfully submitted,

J. L. Côté
Secretariat, ISO/IEC JTC1/SC22